Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05846 102343Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 102220Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2972
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 5846

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EG, IS, SA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRINCE FAHD AUGUST 10

1. WEST AND I MET FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND ONE-QUARTER EVENING AUGUST 10 WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD, WITH PRINCE SAUD PRESENT. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING.

2. FAHD OPENED WITH A VIGOROUS DENIAL OF THE "AMAZING RUMOR" THAT THE SAUDIS HAD EVER SOUGHT TO PERSUADE SADAT TO ABANDON HIS INITIATIVE. I SAID WE APPRECIATED SAUDI ARAIBA'S SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND HIS INITIATIVE; WE WERE NOT QUESTIONING THAT, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY INDICATIONS SAUDI ARABIA HAD DISCOURAGED FURTHER ROUND OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS IN SINAI DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE LEEDS TALKS.

3. FAHD EXPRESSED "TOTAL SUPPORT" FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CAMP DAVID INITIATIVE. HE PLEDGED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT COULD TO HELP MAKE THE CAMP DAVID MEETING A SUCCESS AND TO BUIKD SUPPORT FOR IT IN THE ARAB
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COUNTIRES. I MADE THE POINT THAT THE WORLD SHOULD KNOW OF THIS SAUDI POSITION, AND FAHD SAID THE SAG RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO MAKE A STATEMENT;AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING SAUD TOLD ME THAT FAHD HAD DECIDED THAT A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED AUGUST 11. FAHD VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD EVER SUGGESTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD JOIN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. AFTER HEARING THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY TALKING POINTS, WHICH
I HAD COVERED IN DETAIL WITH SAUD THE PREVIOUS EVENING, AND
ON WHICH SAUD HAD BRIEFED HIM, FAHD SAID HE HOPED WHATEVER
COMES OUT OF CAMP DAVID WILL MENTION THE RIGHT OF SELF-
DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTININANS. HE URGED THAT THE US MAKE
A GESTURE TOWARD THE PALESTINIANS. AS I DID IN MEETING WITH SAUD THE
PREVIOUS EVENING, I EXPLAINED WHY WE CONSIDER
CONTINUATION OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO BE ESSENTIAL AND SAID
USG WILL ADHERE TO THE POSITIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE
SECRETARY HAVE PERSONALLY STATED TO THE SAG. ON THE PALESTINIAN
QUESTION, I EXPLAINED THAT WE BELIEVE THE ASWAN FORMULA IS
A PRACTICAL WAY OF EXPRESSING THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

5. DETAILED REPORTING CABLE FOLLOWS.
WEST

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA05846
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850033-0039
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780879/aaaacnuj.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ad25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1780980
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRINCE FAHD AUGUST 10
TAGS: MARR, XF, US, EG, IS, SA, (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ad25b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014